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| (54) Title: NOVEL CANNABINOID RECEPTOR MODULATORS (57) Abstract Novel pyrazole derivatives are provided which are cannabinoid receptor modulators. | | |

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NOVEL CANNABINOID RECEPTOR MODULATORS**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to novel pyrazole derivatives, pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds and their use in the treatment of diseases
5 connected with the modulation of the cannabinoid peripheral receptor.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cannabinoids are a specific class of psychoactive compounds present in Indian cannabis (*Cannabis sativa*), including about sixty different molecules, the most representative being cannabinal, cannabidiol and several isomers of tetrahydrocannabinol.
10 Knowledge of the therapeutic activity of cannabis dates back to the ancient dynasties of China, where, 5,000 years ago, cannabis was used for the treatment of asthma, migraine and some gynaecological disorders. These uses later became so established that, around 1850, cannabis extracts were included in the US Pharmacopoeia and remained there until 1947.

Cannabinoids are known to cause different effects on various systems and/or
15 organs, the most important being on the central nervous system and on the cardiovascular system. These effects include alterations in memory and cognition, euphoria, and sedation. Cannabinoids also increase heart rate and vary systemic arterial pressure. Peripheral effects related to bronchial constriction, immunomodulation, and inflammation have also been observed. The capability of cannabinoids to reduce intraocular pressure and to affect
20 respiratory and endocrine systems is also well documented. See e.g. L.E. Hollister, Health Aspects of Cannabis, Pharmacological Reviews, Vol. 38, pp. 1-20, (1986). More recently, it was found that cannabinoids suppress the cellular and humoral immune responses and exhibit antiinflammatory properties. Wirth et al., Antiinflammatory Properties of Cannabichrome, Life Science, Vol. 26, pp. 1991-1995, (1980).

25 In spite of the foregoing benefits, the therapeutic use of cannabis is controversial, both due to its relevant psychoactive effects (causing dependence and addiction), and due to manifold side effects that have not yet been completely clarified. Although work in this field has been ongoing since the 1940's, evidence indicating that the peripheral effects of cannabinoids are directly mediated, and not secondary to a CNS effect, has been limited by
30 the lack of receptor characterization, the lack of information concerning an endogenous cannabinoid ligand and, until recently, the lack of receptor subtype selective compounds.

The first cannabinoid receptor was found to be mainly located in the brain, in neural cell lines, and, only to a lesser extent, at the peripheral level. In view of its location, it was called the central receptor ("CB1"). See Matsuda et al., "Structure of a Cannabinoid

Receptor and Functional Expression of the Cloned cDNA," Nature, Vol. 346, pp. 561-564 (1990). The second cannabinoid receptor ("CB2") was identified in the spleen, while being absent at the central location, and was assumed to modulate the non psychoactive effects of the cannabinoids. See Munro et al., "Molecular Characterization of a Peripheral Receptor
5 for Cannabinoids," Nature, Vol. 365, pp. 61-65 (1993).

Recently, some compounds have been prepared which are capable of acting as agonists on both the cannabinoid receptors. For example, use of derivatives of dihydroxypyrrole-(1,2,3-d,e)-1,4-benzoxazine in the treatment of glaucoma and the use of derivatives of 1,5-diphenyl-pyrazole as immunomodulators or psychotropic agents in the
10 treatment of various neuropathologies, migraine, epilepsy, glaucoma, etc are known. See U.S. Patent No. 5,112,820 and EP 576357, respectively. However, because these compounds are active on both the CB1 and CB2 receptor, they can lead to serious psychoactive effects.

The foregoing indications and the preferential localization of the CB2 receptor in
15 the immune system confirms a specific role of CB2 in modulating the immune and antiinflammatory response to stimuli of different sources.

The role of CB2 in immunomodulation, inflammation, osteoporosis, cardiovascular, renal and other disease conditions is now being examined. In light of the fact that cannabinoids act on receptors capable of modulating different functional effects,
20 and in view of the low homology between CB2 and CB1, the importance of developing a class of drugs selective for the specific receptor sub-type is evident. The natural or synthetic cannabinoids currently available do not fulfill this function because they are active on both receptors.

Based on the foregoing, there is a need for compounds which are capable of
25 selectively modulating the peripheral receptor for cannabinoids and, therefore, the pathologies associated with such receptors. Thus, CB2 modulators offer a unique approach toward the pharmacotherapy of immune disorders, inflammation, osteoporosis, renal ischemia and other pathophysiological conditions.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

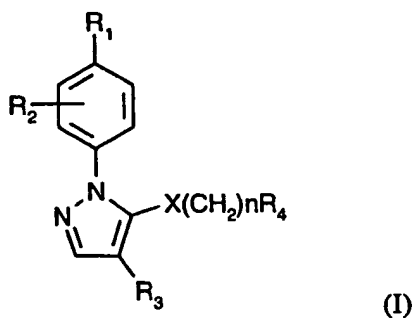
The present invention provides novel pyrazole derivatives represented by Formula (I) and pharmaceutical compositions containing these compounds, and their use as CB2

receptor modulators which are useful in the treatment of a variety of diseases including but not limited to immune disorder, inflammation, osteoporosis and renal ischemia.

The present invention further comprises a method for modulating CB2 receptors in an animal, including humans, which comprises administering to an animal in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of Formula (I).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compounds of the present invention are represented by structural Formula (I):



wherein:

- R_1 is OCH_3 , Br, isopropyl, or Ar;
- R_2 is H, OH, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, $\text{N}(\text{R}_5)_2$, NO_2 , Br, F, I, Cl, CF_3 , or $\text{X}(\text{C}(\text{R}_5)_2)\text{OR}_5$;
- R_3 is hydrogen, $(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{XR}_5$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}_5$, CO_2R_5 , $\text{CON}(\text{R}_5)_2$, oxazoliny, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazoliny, thiazoliny, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, or thiadiazolyl, each of these heterocyclic rings being unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-3} alkyl or fluoroalkyl groups;
- R_4 is morpholiny, piperaziny or piperidiny, each moiety being unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-5} alkyl, OH, NO_2 or $\text{N}(\text{R}_5)_2$ groups;
- R_5 is hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl;
- X is O or NR_5 ;
- Ar is phenyl, anthracenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, pyridinyl, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl,

pyrrolyl or pyrimidinyl; each moiety being unsubstituted or substituted

by one or two Z groups;

Z is H, OH, CO₂R₅, C₁₋₁₀alkoxy, C₁₋₅alkyl, N(R₅)₂, NO₂, Br, F, I,

Cl, CF₃, or X(CH₂)_nOR₅; and

5 n is 1 to 6;

provided that when n is 1, R₅ is not hydrogen in X(CH₂)_nOR₅.

Also included in the present invention are pharmaceutically acceptable salt complexes. Preferred are the ethylene diamine, sodium, potassium, calcium and ethanolamine salts.

10 All alkyl and alkoxy groups may be straight or branched. The compounds of the present invention may contain one or more asymmetric carbon atoms and may exist in racemic and optically active forms. All of these compounds and diastereomers are contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention.

In preferred compounds of the present invention:

15 R₁ is C₁₋₅ alkyl or Ar;

R₂ is hydrogen, C₁₋₅ alkyl or Ar;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of CO₂R₅, oxazolinyl, tetrazolyl, and oxazolyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C₁₋₂ alkyl or fluoroalkyl groups;

20 R₄ is morpholinyl, piperazinyl or piperidinyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C₁₋₅ alkyl groups;

R₅ is C₁₋₅ alkyl;

X is O;

Ar is phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two Z groups; and

25 n is 2.

In more preferred compounds of the present invention:

R₁ is isopropyl or phenyl, substituted by dichloro, CHO, OCH₂OCH₃; and

R₅ is methyl or ethyl.

Preferred compounds useful in the present invention include ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-naphthylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(2-methyl(4-naphthylphenyl))pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-

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- ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate; ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-(2-methylpropanyl)phenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-propoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-ethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate; 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-oxazoline, ; 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-acetoxynitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl methanol, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-N,N-dimethylcarbamidate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carbamide, (+/-)-ethyl 5-((1-methyl-2-piperidiny)methoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-phenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-

- methylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-aminophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-carboxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid, methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-N-diethylacetamidophenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-octoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-tert-butyloxycarbomethoxyphenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl ketone, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl-N-ethylcarboxamide, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-carbomethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-anthracenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-n-butoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, isopropyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, propyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, (R)-(-)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, (S)-(+)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)oxadiazole, 4-methoxymethyl-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methylnaphthyl)phenyl)pyrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-nitrile, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-tetrazole, ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole, ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-

isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole.

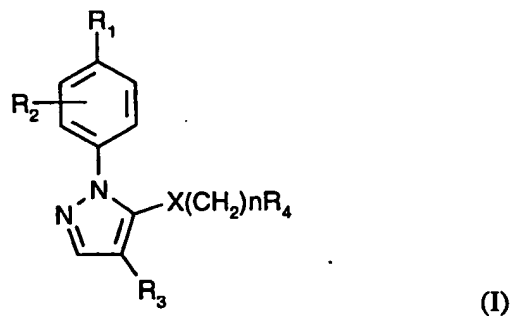
More preferred compounds useful in the present invention include ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate; ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-(2-methylpropanyl)phenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-propoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-ethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate; ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-acetoxynitrilephenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole, (R)-(-)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, and (S)-(+)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline.

Even more preferred compounds useful in the present invention include ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-

4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-
 tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-
 tetrazole, ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
 carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-
 5 tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-
 tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-
 ethyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-
 dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-
 isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-
 10 isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole.

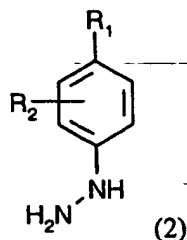
The most preferred compounds useful in the present invention include ethyl 5-(2-
 morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, and 5-(2-
 15 morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-
 morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, 5-
 (2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole, and
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole.

20 The present invention provides compounds of Formula (I) above:

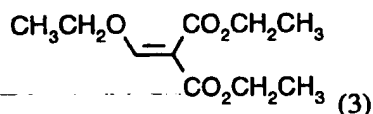


which can be prepared by a process which comprises:

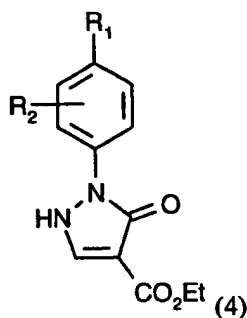
- a) reacting a hydrazine (2), wherein R₁ and R₂ are defined as above,



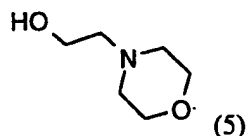
with diethyl ethoxymethylenemalonate (3)



in the presence of a base such as potassium carbonate in aqueous solution to form a compound of Formula (4).



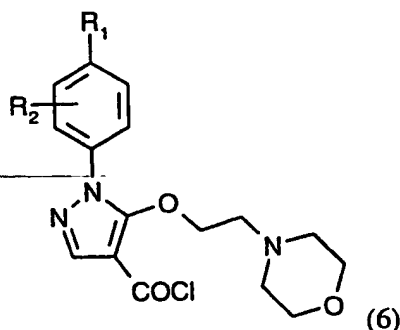
Mitsunobu reaction of the compound of Formula (4) with N-hydroxyethyl morpholine (5)



in the presence of triphenylphosphine and diisopropyl azodicarboxylate in a suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran provides a compound of Formula (I), wherein R_3 is ethoxycarbonyl group, X is O, n is 2 and R_4 is morpholine.

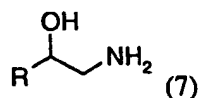
b) Alternatively, in a second synthetic route of the present invention, the product of the Mitsunobu reaction above is saponified with a base such as NaOH in a mixture of ethanol and water followed by treatment of the resulting acid with oxalyl

chloride in a suitable solvent such as benzene in presence of a catalytic amount of N,N'-dimethylformamide to afford an acid chloride of Formula (6)



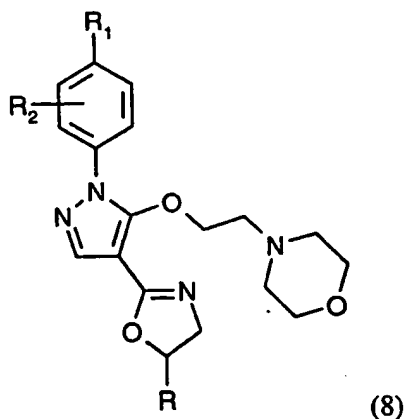
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Reaction of the acid chloride of Formula (6) with an amino alcohol of Formula (7), wherein R is C₁₋₆ alkyl,



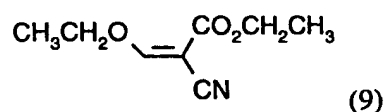
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in a suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran provides an oxazoline of Formula (8).

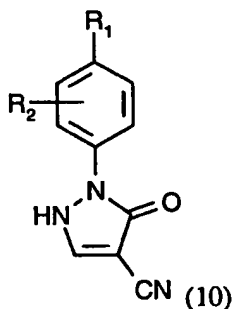


- 15 Oxidation of the oxazoline of Formula (8) with an oxidant such as 2,3-dichloro-5,6-dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone ("DDQ") or triphenylphosphine-iodine affords an oxazole of Formula (I), where R₃ is an oxazolyl moiety, X is O, n is 2 and R₄ is morpholine.

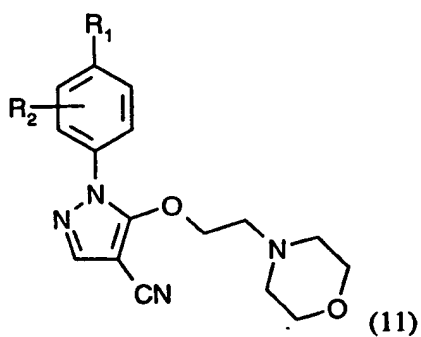
c) In a third embodiment of the present invention, treatment of a hydrazine of Formula (2) with ethyl (ethoxyethylene)cyanoacetate of Formula (9)



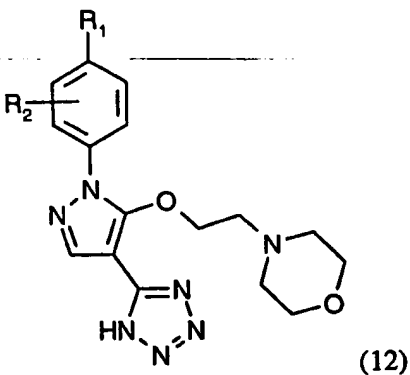
- 5 in the presence of a base such as potassium carbonate in aqueous solution provides a compound of Formula (10).



- 10 Alkylation of the compound of Formula (10) with an alkyl halide such as 1-chloro-2-(4-morpholinyl)ethane in presence of a base such as potassium carbonate in a suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran affords a compound of Formula (11).



- 15 Reaction of the nitrile of Formula (11) with trimethyltin azide in a suitable solvent such as toluene followed by acidic treatment with hydrochloric acid in methanol provides a tetrazole of Formula (12).



Alkylation of the tetrazole of Formula (12) with an alkyl halide such as ethyl iodide affords a mixture of ethyl tetrazoles of Formula (I), where R₃ is ethyl tetrazolyl moiety, X is O, n is 2 and R₄ is morpholine.

With appropriate manipulation and protection of any chemical functionalities, synthesis of the remaining compounds of Formula (I) is accomplished by methods analogous to those above and to those described in the Experimental section.

In order to use a compound of the Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for the treatment of humans and other mammals it is normally formulated in accordance with standard pharmaceutical practice as a pharmaceutical composition.

As used herein, "modulator" means both antagonist and agonist. Preferably the present modulators are antagonists.

As used herein, "treatment" of a disease includes, but is not limited to prevention, retardation and prophylaxis of the disease.

In addition to the conditions listed hereinabove, the present compounds are useful for the treatment of diseases including but not limited to immunologically-mediated inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and thyroiditis. In addition, the present compounds modulate bone formation/resorption and are useful in the treatment of conditions including but not limited to ankylosing spondylitis, gout, arthritis associated with gout, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis.

Compounds of Formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts may be administered in a standard manner for the treatment of the indicated diseases, for

example orally, parenterally, sub-lingually, dermally, transdermally, rectally, via inhalation or via buccal administration.

Composition of Formula (I) and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts which are active when given orally can be formulated as syrups, tablets, capsules and lozenges. A syrup formulation will generally consist of a suspension or solution of the compound or salt in a liquid carrier for example, ethanol, peanut oil, olive oil, glycerine or water with a flavoring or coloring agent. Where the composition is in the form of a tablet, any pharmaceutical carrier routinely used for preparing solid formulations may be used. Examples of such carriers include magnesium stearate, terra alba, talc, gelatin, acacia, stearic acid, starch, lactose and sucrose. Where the composition is in the form of a capsule, any routine encapsulation is suitable, for example using the aforementioned carriers in a hard gelatin capsule shell. Where the composition is in the form of a soft gelatin shell capsule any pharmaceutical carrier routinely used for preparing dispersions or suspensions may be considered, for example aqueous gums, celluloses, silicates or oils, and are incorporated in a soft gelatin capsule shell.

Typical parenteral compositions consist of a solution or suspension of a compound or salt in a sterile aqueous or non-aqueous carrier optionally containing a parenterally acceptable oil, for example polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, lecithin, arachis oil or sesame oil.

Typical compositions for inhalation are in the form of a solution, suspension or emulsion that may be administered as a dry powder or in the form of an aerosol using a conventional propellant such as dichlorodifluoromethane or trichlorofluoromethane.

A typical suppository formulation comprises a compound of Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof which is active when administered in this way, with a binding and/or lubricating agent, for example polymeric glycols, gelatins, cocoa-butter or other low melting vegetable waxes or fats or their synthetic analogs.

Typical dermal and transdermal formulations comprise a conventional aqueous or non-aqueous vehicle, for example a cream, ointment, lotion or paste or are in the form of a medicated plaster, patch or membrane.

Preferably the composition is in unit dosage form, for example a tablet, capsule or metered aerosol dose, so that the patient may administer a single dose.

Each dosage unit for oral administration contains suitably from 0.1 mg to 500 mg/Kg, and preferably from 1 mg to 100 mg/Kg, and each dosage unit for parenteral administration contains suitably from 0.1 mg to 100 mg/Kg, of a compound of Formula(I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof calculated as the free acid. Each dosage unit for intranasal administration contains suitably 1-400 mg and preferably 10 to 200 mg per person. A topical formulation contains suitably 0.01 to 5.0% of a compound of Formula (I).

The daily dosage regimen for oral administration is suitably about 0.01 mg/Kg to 40 mg/Kg, of a compound of Formula(I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof calculated as the free acid. the daily dosage regimen for parenteral administration is suitably about 0.001 mg/Kg to 40 mg/Kg, of a compound of Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof calculated as the free acid. the daily dosage regimen for intranasal administration and oral inhalation is suitably about 10 to about 500 mg/person. The active ingredient may be administered from 1 to 6 times a day, sufficient to exhibit the desired activity.

No unacceptable toxicological effects are expected when compounds of the present invention are administered in accordance with the present invention.

The biological activity of the compounds of Formula (I) are demonstrated by the following tests:

Human CB2 Cannabinoid Receptor Binding Assay

HEK 293 cells, stably transfected with the human CB2 receptor are scaled up as follows. CB2 membrane is made from polyclonal CB2 receptors expressing 293 cells. The assay buffer comprises 50mM Tris (pH 7.5), 5mM MgCl₂, 2.5 mM EDTA and 5mg/ml fatty-acid free Bovine Serum Albumin. All chemicals utilized are obtained from Sigma, except fatty acid-free Bovine Albumin Fraction V, which is from CalBiochem, and tritiated 5-(1,1-dimethylheptyl)-2-(5-hydroxypropyl)cyclohexyl-1 alpha, 2 beta, 5 alpha)-phenol ("³H-CP 55,940") (103.4 Ci/mmol, 1m Ci/ml), which is from DuPont NEN. All compounds are dissolved in DMSO.

The final compound concentrations range from 1.00 E⁻⁴ to 1.00E⁻¹⁰. The reaction mixture is obtained by combining 1.3-1.8nM ³H-CP 55,940, in a reaction volume of 150 µl, and 50 µg membrane in homogenization buffer containing fatty acid-free BSA. A 96

deep well microtiter polypropylene plate is utilized. 50 μ l ^3H -CP 55,940 stock solution are added three times to each well of the microtiter plate. 45 μ l assay buffer are added to the total number of binding samples, followed by 45 μ l of 1 μ M cold ^3H -CP 55,940 to non-specific samples. 5 μ l of each concentration of compound are added to the 96 deep well plate except the designated total and non-specific wells. 5 μ l DMSO are added manually for the total and non-specific wells.

The binding reaction is initiated by the addition of 50 μ l of 20 μ g per well of CB2 membrane. The reaction mixture is incubated for one hour at 30°C in a shaking water bath. The binding reaction is terminated by rapid filtration onto GF/B filter paper treated with wash buffer using a Brandel 96-well cell harvester, followed by washing five times with 3 ml ice-cold wash buffer. The filters are air dried, placed in scintillation fluid and ^3H -CP 55,940 radioactivity determined by liquid scintillation counting. Competition binding curves are analyzed by non-linear regression using GRAPHPAD PRISM. K_i values ranging from 25 nM to 10 μ M are obtained for the antagonists of the present invention.

The following examples are illustrative, but not limiting of the embodiments of the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-carboxylate

a) Ethyl 1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-pyrazolin-5-one carboxylate

A solution of 4-bromophenylhydrazine hydrochloride (15.00 g, 0.07 mol), potassium carbonate (30.00 g, 0.20 mol) and diethyl ethoxymethylene malonate (20.00 ml, 0.08 mol) in water (250 mL) was stirred at reflux for 18 h. Extraction with ethyl acetate (3 x 100 mL), washing the combined organics with 10% HCl solution, gave a crude oil. Purification by flash chromatography of the oil (silica gel, 25% ethyl acetate/hexane) afforded the title compound as a brown solid (19.70 g, 93%). ^1H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 7.74 (s, 1H), 7.58-7.62 (d, 1H), 7.36-7.42 (d, 1H), 5.35 (s, 1H), 4.40 (q, 2H), 1.33 (t, 3H). MS(ESI) m/e 311.1 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$; mp: 164°C (methanol).

b) Ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-bromophenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate

A solution of ethyl 1-(4-bromophenyl)-4-pyrazolin-5-one carboxylate (18.10 g, 0.06 mol), triphenylphosphine (20.00 g, 0.08 mol), diisopropyl azodicarboxylate (15.00 mL, 0.08 mol) and 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)morpholine (8.50 mL, 0.07 mol) in THF (250 mL) was stirred at reflux for 5 h. The reaction was quenched with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was washed with brine and dried (Na₂SO₄). After removing the solvent, flash chromatography of the residue (silica gel, 50% ethyl acetate/hexane) afforded the title compound as a brown oil (19.50 g, 79%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.90 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, 1H), 7.52 (d, 1H), 4.55 (t, 2H), 4.35 (q, 2H), 3.52 (t, 4H), 2.61 (t, 2H), 2.28 (t, 4H), 1.35 (t, 3H). MS(ESI) m/e 424.3 [M+H]⁺.

c) Ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-carboxylate

A mixture of ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-bromophenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate (0.25 g, 0.59 mmol), sodium carbonate (0.20 g, 1.77 mmol), tetrakis(triphenylphosphine) palladium (0) (.12 g, .18 mmol) and 1-formylbenzeneboronic acid (0.10 g, 0.76 mmol) in a solution of toluene (10 mL), ethanol (1 mL) and water (1 mL) was stirred at reflux for 18 h. The reaction was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic extract was washed with brine and dried (Na₂SO₄). After removing the solvent, flash chromatography of the residue (silica gel, 50% ethyl acetate/hexane) afforded the title compound as an oil (0.14 g, 66%). ¹H NMR (250 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 9.98 (s, 1H), 8.01 (d, 1H), 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.85 (d, 2H), 7.62 (d, 1H), 7.46 (m, 4H), 4.65 (t, 2H), 4.35 (q, 2H), 3.56 (t, 4H), 2.68 (t, 2H), 2.38 (t, 4H), 1.38 (t, 3H). MS(ESI) m/e 450.4 [M+H]⁺.

EXAMPLES 2 - 63

The following compounds are synthesized according to the methods of Example 1:

- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-naphthylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-(2-methylpropanyl)phenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-propoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
10 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-ethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-acetoxynitrilephenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
15 carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid,
20 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl methanol,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-N,N-dimethylcarbamidate,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carbamide,
(+/-)-ethyl 5-((1-methyl-2-piperidiny)methoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
25 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl, ethyl 5-(2-
morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-phenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
30 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-aminophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
5 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-carboxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid,
methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-N-diethylacetamidephenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
10 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-octoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-tert-butyloxycarbomethoxyphenyl)-
phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl ketone,
15 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl-N-ethylcarboxamide,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-carbomethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-anthracenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-n-butoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
20 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,
methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
isopropyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
propyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
25 ethyl 5-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-oxazoline,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)oxadiazole,
4-methoxymethyl-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methylnaphthyl)phenyl)-pyrazole,
30 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-nitrile,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-tetrazole,

- a mixture of 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole,
- ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-tetrazole,
- a mixture of 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole and 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole,
- 10 ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, and ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate.

Formulations for pharmaceutical use incorporating compounds of the present invention can be prepared in various forms and with numerous excipients. Examples of such formulations are given below.

15

EXAMPLE 64

Inhalant Formulation

A compound of Formula I, (1 mg to 100 mg) is aerosolized from a metered dose inhaler to deliver the desired amount of drug per use.

20

EXAMPLE 65

Tablet Formulation

| <u>Tablets/Ingredients</u> | | <u>Per Tablet</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Active ingredient | 40 mg |
| 25 | (Cpd of Form. I) | " |
| 2. | Corn Starch | 20 mg |
| 3. | Alginic acid | 20 mg |
| 4. | Sodium Alginate | 20 mg |
| 5. | Mg stearate | 1.3 mg |
| 30 | | 2.3 mg |

Procedure for tablet formulation:

Ingredients 1, 2, 3 and 4 are blended in a suitable mixer/blender. Sufficient water is added portion-wise to the blend with careful mixing after each addition until the mass is of a consistency to permit its conversion to wet granules. The wet mass is converted to granules by passing it through an oscillating granulator using a No. 8 mesh (2.38 mm) screen. The wet granules are then dried in an oven at 140°F (60°C) until dry. The dry granules are lubricated with ingredient No. 5, and the lubricated granules are compressed on a suitable tablet press.

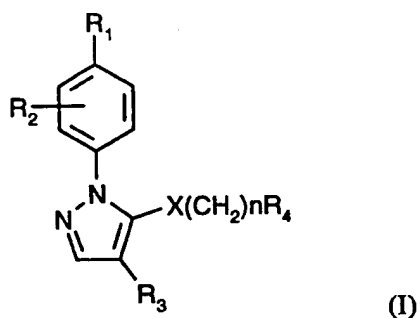
EXAMPLE 6610 Parenteral Formulation

A pharmaceutical composition for parenteral administration is prepared by dissolving an appropriate amount of a compound of formula I in polyethylene glycol with heating. This solution is then diluted with water for injections Ph Eur. (to 100 ml). The solution is then rendered sterile by filtration through a 0.22 micron membrane filter and sealed in sterile containers.

All publications, including but not limited to patents and patent applications cited in this specification are herein incorporated by reference as if each individual publication were specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference as though fully set forth.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



5

wherein:

R_1 is OCH_3 , Br, isopropyl, or Ar;

R_2 is H, OH, C_{1-5} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, $N(R_5)_2$, NO_2 , Br, F, I, Cl, CF_3 , or $X(C(R_5)_2)OR_5$;

10

R_3 is hydrogen, $(CH_2)_nXR_5$, $C(O)R_5$, CO_2R_5 , $CON(R_5)_2$, oxazoliny, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazoliny, thiazoliny, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, or thiadiazolyl, each of these heterocyclic rings being unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-3} alkyl or fluoroalkyl groups;

15

R_4 is morpholiny, piperaziny or piperidiny, each moiety being unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-5} alkyl, OH, NO_2 or $N(R_5)_2$ groups;

R_5 is hydrogen or C_{1-8} alkyl;

X is O or NR_5 ;

20

Ar is phenyl, anthracenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, pyridiny, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, imidazolyl, oxadiazolyl, pyrrolyl or pyrimidiny; each moiety being unsubstituted or substituted by one or two Z groups;

Z is H, OH, CO_2R_5 , C_{1-10} alkoxy, C_{1-5} alkyl, $N(R_5)_2$, NO_2 , Br, F, I,

25

Cl, CF_3 , or $X(CH_2)_nOR_5$; and

n is 1 to 6; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

provided that when n is 1, R_5 is not hydrogen in $X(CH_2)_nOR_5$.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein:
 R_1 is C_{1-5} alkyl or Ar;
 R_2 is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or Ar;
5 R_3 is selected from the group consisting of CO_2R_5 , oxazoliny, tetrazoly, and oxazoly, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-2} alkyl or fluoroalkyl groups;
 R_4 is morpholinyl, piperazinyl or piperidinyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two C_{1-5} alkyl groups;
10 R_5 is C_{1-5} alkyl;
X is O;
Ar is phenyl, unsubstituted or substituted by one or two Z groups; and n is 2.
- 15 3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein:
 R_1 is isopropyl or phenyl substituted by dichloro, CHO, OCH_2OCH_3 ; and R_5 is methyl or ethyl.
- 20 4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3 selected from the group consisting of:
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-naphthylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-
25 pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
30 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-(2-methylpropanyl)phenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-propoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-ethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
- 10 carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-acetoxynitrilephenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 15 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl methanol,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-N,N-
- 20 dimethylcarbamidate,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carbamide,
- (+/-)-ethyl 5-((1-methyl-2-piperidiny)methoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole,
- 25 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)-phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-phenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
- 30 carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-chlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 10 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(3-aminophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-carboxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylic acid,
- 15 methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(4-methoxycarbonylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-N-diethylacetamidophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-octoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 20 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-tert-butyloxycarbomethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-benzyloxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 25 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-methyl ketone,
- 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazol-4-yl-N-ethylcarboxamide,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-carbomethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- 30 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-anthracenylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
- ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-n-butoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 methyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 isopropyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-
 5 carboxylate,
 propyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 ethyl 5-(2-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-oxazoline,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline,
 10 (R)-(-)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, (S)-(+)-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(5-methyl)oxazoline, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)oxadiazole,
 4-methoxymethyl-5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methylnaphthyl)phenyl)-
 15 pyrazole,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-nitrile,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-tetrazole,
 20 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole,
 ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,
 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-
 25 methyl)-tetrazole, 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole, ethyl 5-(4-pyridinylmethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate, and ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate.

30 5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4 selected from the group consisting of :

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-formylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-
pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dimethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate;

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

10 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-(2-methylpropanyl)phenyl)phenyl)-
pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-propoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxymethylphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

15 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-ethoxyphenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate;

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-hydroxyethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-
4-carboxylate,

20 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-acetoxynitrilephenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-
carboxylate,

25 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole,

5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole,

5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole,

and

5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole.

30

6. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5 selected from the group consisting of:

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

5 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,3-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

10 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-methyl)-tetrazole,
5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-methyl)-tetrazole,
ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-nitrophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole, and

15 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-[4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl]pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole.

7. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 selected from the group consisting of:

20 ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2-methoxymethoxyphenyl)phenyl)-pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

ethyl 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)phenyl)pyrazole-4-carboxylate,

25 5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(1-ethyl)-tetrazole,
and

5-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)-1-(4-isopropylphenyl)pyrazole-4-(2-ethyl)-tetrazole.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30

9. A method of antagonizing cannabinoid 2 receptors which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of any of claims 1 to 7.

10. A method of treatment of diseases caused by an excess of cannabinoid comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a cannabinoid receptor 2 antagonist according to any of claims 1 to 7.
- 5
11. A method of treating an immunologically-mediated inflammatory disease selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and thyroiditis which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims
- 10 1 to 7.
12. A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of ankylosing spondylitis, gout, gouty arthritis, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound
- 15 according to any of claims 1 to 7.
13. A method of treating renal ischemia which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to any of claims
- 1 to 7.
- 20
14. The use of a compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for use as a cannabinoid 2 receptor antagonist.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US98/01175

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) : A01N 43/56; C07D 231/04

US CL : 515/406, 407; 548/366.1, 371.4

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 515/406, 407; 548/366.1, 371.4

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
NONEElectronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Extra Sheet.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| A | US 5,462,960 A (BARTH ET AL.) 31 October 1995, see abstract and claim 1. | 1-14 |
| X | WO 93/25535 A1 (RHONE-POULENC AGRICULTURE LTD.) 23 December 1993, see abstract and claim 1 | 1-8 |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

B earlier document published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

A

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 APRIL 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 JUN 1998

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US98/01175

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Electronic data bases consulted (Name of data base and where practicable terms used):

REGISTRY, CA, CAPLUS, MARPAT, USPATFULL, IFICDB search terms include both a structure and fragment searches with the following terms: inflammation, antiinflammatory agents, narcotics, antiischemic agents, cannabinoid?